

# "FIRST IN, LAST OUT"

*Newsletter of OCS consolidated class 52  
December Edition*



**Candidates get festive  
During December IDT**

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**Upcoming drills**



## What to expect for upcoming drills

Officer Candidate Lynae Johnson, January platoon leader, briefed officer candidates from Officer Candidate School consolidated class 52 at Camp Fretterd, Md., Dec. 4 during the Operation Order

brief on what events to expect during the upcoming inactive duty training weekend, Jan. 7-9. Johnson

also provided information to the candidates on the Warning Orders for the upcoming IDTs, Feb. 4-6 and Mar. 4-6 during the training meeting Dec. 18.

### January

The Jan. IDT weekend will take place at CFMR.

The key events for Jan. Include two exams that candidates are required to pass, the Call for Fire exam and the Military History exam.

"Call for Fire is usually the first exam that sends candidates home," said 1st Lt. Timothy Cushatt. So candidates

need to come prepared for IDT.

There will also be a APFT to pass. The Phase 2 candidates will also help prepare the Phase 0 candidates who are attending the winter ac-

other APFT that they are expected to pass with at least a 220 personal score and a platoon average of 255.

For more information on the Feb. IDT consult the training schedule.

## Happy Holidays

### March

The March IDT will also take place at CFMR.

The key events include

a Military Tactics exam and a 7-mile ruck march that candidates should begin training for now so their bodies are capable of handling the march.

For more information on the March IDT consult the respective training schedule.

For more information on what was discussed during the training meeting, look for the minutes to be distributed.

For more information on events scheduled during IDTs, refer to respective OPORD, WARNOs and training schedules.

celerated program and provide them with tips to help them complete OCS.

For more information on training for the IDT, consult the Jan. Training schedule and minutes from the Dec. 18 training meeting.

### February

The Feb. IDT will take place at CFMR as well.

Key events for the IDT weekend include a Military Intelligence exam and an Operations Order exam that candidates must pass in order to continue on in OCS. Candidates will also take an-

## On the Cover

*Officer Candidates, family, friends and guests from the 70th Regimental staff watch the photo presentation by Officer Candidate John Ferry showing events from Phase 1 and 2 to show what the candidates go through during Officer Candidate School.*

*All photos and stories by Officer Candidate Jessica Donnelly unless otherwise noted.*



# Recognition served where recognition deserved



*Capt. Ronald Martin received a Meritorious Service Medal during an awards ceremony Dec. 5 for his work as a Teach, Assess and Counsel trainer with the Officer Candidate School for the past five years.*

*"Capt. Martin has done more than what was expected of him to support the program and accomplish the mission," said Capt. Pamela Leach, Senior TAC trainer.*

*"I'm only as good as the people around me," said Martin. "That goes for staff and candidates."*

*Capt. Harry Oldfield received a Meritorious Service Medal during the awards ceremony Dec. 5 for his work as a Teach, Assess and Counsel trainer and instructor for almost three years.*

*"It's been an honor to serve with you as a TAC in Phase 1," said Oldfield. "Take care of your Soldiers and get the mission done as 2nd lieutenants."*



*Sgt. 1st Class Timmie Telsee received an Accommodation Medal from the state of Maryland Dec. 5 for his service as acting 1st Sgt. during Phase 1 of Officer Candidate School.*

*Telsee will continue with the OCS program as an NCO TAC trainer.*



# Officer Candidates get *festive* during December drill



Officer Candidate Jacob Day gives his informational brief to the class Dec. 4. Candidates were instructed to give an informational brief on a topic of their choice in order to practice speaking in front of others and receive constructive criticism from their peers and instructors.

**E**very month, officer candidates spend three days away from their families training to become future leaders in the Army National Guard. Family members wait at home while candidates spend a weekend learning skills and tactics before coming home tired, dirty and in need of some rest. The family members are continuously there to support the candidates, without fully understanding what they go through when they go away for those three days. However, the December inactive duty training weekend provided an opportunity for families and friends to get a glimpse at a day in the life of officer candidates in the Officer Candidate School training environment.

Maryland Officer Candidate School combined class 52 completed another IDT weekend as part of the OCS program Dec. 3-5 at Camp Fretterd, Md. moving one step closer to earning their respective commissions in the Maryland, West Virginia or District of Columbia National Guard.

The IDT weekend was full of essential training intended to train effective leaders. The training included an Army Physical Fitness Test and classroom portions dedicated to teaching public speaking techniques. The classroom portion also included an exercise where each candidate produced and delivered an informational brief to their peers for critique. After the training was completed, the main event of the weekend included a holiday party planned and executed by the candidates that served as an opportunity for family and friends to share this special occasion and to get a glimpse into the life of an officer candidate.

"The holiday party was a complete success in my mind," said Officer Candidate Namataka Heru, December's platoon sergeant. "It achieved its end state of bringing officer candidates, families and OCS staff together to understand the world of OCS."

The holiday event included an opportunity for guests to socialize with one another, interact with the OCS and regimental staff, share a meal together, have a photo opportunity with Santa Claus, watch a photo presentation of the class' accomplishments, and listen to a motivational speech on career progression by the keynote speaker, Col. Linda Singh, 70th Regiment commander.

"If I look at my career in hindsight, I can tell you that you have to take charge of your career. Take it and own it," said Singh. "I think you've done that already because you've taken the first step to becoming leaders."

In the end, the point that was most stressed throughout

the event was the importance of family support while going through OCS.

"It is utterly impossible to say that an officer candidate can exist and survive in the OCS environment without support from their families," said Heru. "The mental and physical stresses that occur in OCS are hard enough to handle, but even harder to handle without the outlet of confiding in loved ones. The family is a portion of the power that drives an officer candidate through OCS."

While the holiday party served as an opportunity to share a special time with friends and family, candidates must always remember their reasons for being in the program and continue to work toward the end goal of earning their commission.

"All focus must be directed to every aspect of the duties at hand," said Heru. "The platoon must learn to think ahead, as well as in the moment ... To achieve the goals of each weekend."

Leadership from the 70th Regiment serve officer candidates lunch at the dining facility Dec. 4 to show candidates they appreciate what they are working toward in honor of the holidays.



Officer Candidate Rebecca Smith folds a shelter half while taking down tent city Dec. 5.



# Officer candidates put on holiday gala for friends, family, 70th Regiment leadership

## Preparation:



Officer Candidate Christopher Larkin helps Officer Candidate Peter Rangelov place his name tape on his Class A uniform before open-ranks inspection for the holiday gala Dec. 5.



Officer Candidate Jacob Day and Officer Candidate Tanika Andrews tape down a table cloth while decorating the 29th Division Hall.



Officer Candidate Alyssa Castelli and Officer Candidate Tanika Andrews hang garland from the stage at the 29th Division Hall for the holiday gala.



Officer Candidates finish setting up the food table in preparation for the holiday gala Dec. 5.

## The big event:

Officer Candidate John Ferry presents a photo slideshow to the guests to show them what candidates go through during Officer Candidate School



Officer Candidate School Class 52 pose with Santa.



Capt. Pamela Leach, Capt. Ronald Martin, Capt. Christopher Kinney and 1st Lt. Timothy Cushatt visit with Santa during the holiday gala.



Col. Linda Singh, 70th Regiment commander, poses with Santa. Singh was the keynote speaker during the holiday gala.